

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23 are currently pending in the application. Claim 16 has been amended at lines 1-2 by changing “user’s actions include” to “user action includes” to reflect the language of Claim 1 (line 12), from which Claim 16 depends. Similarly, Claim 21 has been amended at lines 1-2 by changing “user’s actions include” to “user action includes” to reflect the language of Claim 8 (line 13), from which Claim 21 depends.

The amendment to the claims does not raise new issues and simplifies the case for either allowance or proceeding to appeal. Therefore, entry of the amendment is appropriate at this time.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Applicants traverse on the basis that Claims 1-3 are directed towards statutory subject matter, as discussed below. In addition, Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0018719 by Ruths et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0167344 by Danso. Applicants traverse on the basis that a combination of Ruths et al. and Danso does not result in or make obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23. The Danso reference is raised for the first time in the Office Action mailed January 25, 2008, and Applicants have not previously had an opportunity to address the Examiner’s rejection based on this reference.

The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention provides a Collaboration Development Environment (CDE) based on explicit modeling of contexts and collaboration spaces (CollabSpaces). A context refers to the inter-related aspects of a business solution, within which collaboration may occur. (Specification, page 3, lines 23-25) A CollabSpace, encapsulating the collection of collaboration of all resources, displays only those

resources relevant to the current context of a user's development environment based on the role the user plays in the business process. (Specification, page 3, line 25 – page 4, line 1). The Examiner states, “Ruths explicitly discloses collaboration among human participants” (Office Action at 2); however, Ruths et al. do not, *inter alia*, teach presenting different displays to different team members, based on a team member's context, as required by independent Claims 1 and 8. (Claim 1, lines 14-16; Claim 8, lines 15-17) Combining Ruths et al. with Danso does not add this feature.

A CollabSpace contains one or more collaboration elements that have potentially different collaboration modalities in association with a business context — including, but not limited to, discussion threads, team members, tasks, and so forth. The collaboration modalities refers to distinct collaboration capabilities provided by a specific technology — including, but not limited to, e-meetings, discussion threads, instant messaging chat transcripts, online presence awareness (e.g., “buddy” lists), annotations, team rooms, and so forth. (Specification, page 4, lines 1-7)

The claimed invention thus provides a common substrate for members of a project team that use distinct development environments, each instrumented with a viewer to the CollabSpace. Further, the viewer presents a personalized view to different team members, which is adapted to the members' current tasks and needs. (Specification, page 4, lines 7-11)

The Collaboration Development Environment's context and CollabSpace are not found in either Ruth et al. or Danso, which are cited in support of rejection. (Office Action at 4) Neither Ruth et al. nor Danso teaches business processes or assigning different roles to users. Furthermore, neither Ruth et al. nor Danso mentions anything about how information relating to collaboration — including, but not limited to, discussion threads, team members, tasks, and so forth — may be rendered according to the distinct role of the user within a context. As a result, a combination of Ruths et al. and Danso cannot result in the claimed invention.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to nonstatutory subject matter, on the basis that the term data processing system does not “make the software structurally and functionally related to a hardware device.” (Office Action at 3) Applicants traverse on the basis that the term data processing system is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art as referring to a data processing apparatus or a combination of data processing apparatuses, thus claiming a hardware device.

In addition, the “user control” that enables a user to create a collaboration space (Claim 1, line 8; *cf.* Claim 15, line 1) is directed towards statutory subject matter. Likewise, the “user action” in a development environment (Claim 1, line 12; *cf.* Claim 16, line 1)

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by a combination of Ruths et al. and Danso. Neither of these references, however, teaches a “collaboration space” or a “context” as required by Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23. Therefore, a combination of Ruths et al. and Danso could not result in the claimed invention.

Ruths et al. do not teach the collaboration space of Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 14-23 but instead teach a collaborative platform to facilitate the development and deployment of a collaborative environment in which applications may be layered among multiple participants. The collaborative environment of Ruths et al. may span different participants, applications, networks, devices and platforms; however, Ruths et al. do not present a context-based personalized view to different team members, as provided in independent Claims 1 and 8. (Claim 1, lines 14-16; Claim 8, lines 15-17; Specification, page 4, lines 7-11)

Danso teaches the use of a collaboration server which enables asynchronous collaboration (email, calendar, forum, list of tasks) but does not teach how information

about such asynchronous collaboration is displayed to the end user. (Danso, paragraph 81) Nor does Danso mention anything about roles of users in the business process as required by independent Claims 1 and 8. As a result, Danso does not make up for the deficiencies of Ruths et al. as discussed in the preceding paragraph.

In addition, Danso teaches the implementation of “a predetermined number of communication nodes” (Danso, paragraph 15), while Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23 do not require a predetermined limitation to be placed on the number of CollabSpaces to be formed.

Claim 1. In rejecting independent Claim 1 as obvious over a combination of Ruths et al. and Danso, the Examiner does not assert that either Ruths et al. or Danso teaches the requirement of “a viewer that displays in a graphical user interface display window content of a collaboration space relevant to a current context, said current context including at least one of role players, online status, e-meeting links, and discussion threads.” (Claim 1, lines 14-16) The Examiner recognizes that “Ruths does not explicitly disclose ‘said collaboration space containing at least one of a role player and a discussion thread.’” (Office Action at 5) The Examiner erroneously finds the missing feature to be present in Danso, even though Danso does not teach either the display of asynchronous collaboration to an end user or the context of an end user’s development environment based on the end user’s role in a business process. For these and other reasons, a combination of Ruths et al. and Danso does not result in the claimed invention.

Claim 2. With regard to Claim 2, the Examiner has erroneously found that paragraph 52 of the disclosure of Ruths et al. teaches “‘the user control, the monitor and viewer comprise a collaboration plugin . . . there being collaboration plugin for each user’ as each application provides a window for a user to view and manipulate collaboration data.” (Office Action at 5) Ruths et al., however, teach a “window” for a user to view and manipulate collaboration data. (Ruths et al., paragraph 52) This window does not provide any monitoring capabilities and is not context sensitive. By contrast, Claim 2 provides a “collaboration plugin to an independent development environment” comprised

of a monitor and a viewer. (Claim 2, lines 1-2) As explained in the specification, that monitor associated with the collaboration plugin always listens to the user's action and determines the context associated with action, based on the user's action. (Specification, page3, lines 5-10) Thus, Ruths et al. do not anticipate Claim 2 of the claimed invention.

Claim 2 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 1.

Claim 3. With regard to Claim 3, the Examiner has erroneously found that paragraph 56 of the disclosure of Ruths et al. teaches "the collaboration plugin allows a first user to communicate with one or more other users and to gain access to resources of the context in which said first user is working without said first user having to leave said first user's development environment and without said first user having to switch to a different collaboration application." (Office Action at 56) Ruths et al., however, teach only that "a user may view collaborative resource on display 13 and/or manipulate collaborative resources through other I/O devices." (Ruths et al., paragraph 56) Thus, Ruths et al. do not anticipate Claim 3 of the claimed invention.

Claim 3 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 1.

Claim 8. With regard to Claim 8, the Examiner states that it is "rejected for the same reasons as claim 1." (Office Action at 6) As a result, the foregoing discussion of Claim 1 is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein.

Claim 9. With regard to Claim 9, the Examiner states that "it is substantially similar to claim 3 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons." (Office Action at 6) As a result, the foregoing discussion of Claim 3 is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Claim 9 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 8.

Claim 10. With regard to Claim 10, the Examiner states that "it is substantially similar to claim 2 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons." (Office Action at 6) As a result, the foregoing discussion of Claim 2 is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Claim 10 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 8.

Claim 14. With regard to Claim 14, the Examiner has erroneously found that paragraphs 57, 58, 89, and 138 of the disclosure of Ruths et al. teach "managing a life

cycle of one or more collaboration spaces,” “directing collaborative operations to external collaboration servers,” and “servers including . . . a team room server.” Ruths et al., however, teach a “collaborative platform” (Ruths et al., paragraphs 57, 58, 89, and 138) which is not analogous to the collaboration space of Claim 14 because, as discussed above, a collaboration space presents a context-based personalized view to different team members, as discussed in the Specification and as provided in independent Claim 8, from which Claim 14 indirectly depends. (Specification, page 4, lines 7-11; independent Claim 8, lines 15-17) Thus, Ruths et al. do not anticipate Claim 14 of the claimed invention.

Claim 14 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claims 8 and 9.

Claim 15. With regard to Claim 15, the Examiner has erroneously found that paragraph 85 of the disclosure of Ruths et al. teaches “‘the user control allows the user to enable and disable context sensitivity and to open a collaboration space manually’ as providing an abstraction of the resources thereby enabling different user views of the resources and allowing creation of a collaborative group.” (Office Action at 6-7) Ruths et al., however, teach “the spontaneous creation of collaborative groups by entering into a session with other participants.” (Ruths et al., paragraph 85) This is not analogous to opening a collaboration space as required in Claim 15, because, as discussed above, opening a collaboration space involves presenting a context-based personalized view to different team members, as discussed in the Specification and as as provided in independent Claim 1, from which Claim 15 depends. (Specification, page 4, lines 7-11; Claim 1, lines 14-16) Thus, Ruths et al. do not anticipate Claim 15 of the claimed invention.

Claim 15 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 1.

Claim 16. Claim 16 should be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 1.

Claim 17. Claim 17 should be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 1.

Claim 18. With regard to Claim 18, the Examiner states that “it is substantially similar to claim 14 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.” (Office Action at 7)

As a result, the foregoing discussion of Claim 14 is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Claim 18 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 1.

Claim 19. With regard to Claim 19, the Examiner has erroneously found that paragraph 51 of the disclosure of Ruths et al. teaches ““said collaboration manager is operatively couple with said collaboration plugins and said external collaboration servers” as a collaboration system that is coupled together over a network.” (Office Action at 7) Ruths et al., however, teach “a collaborative system including various participant devices 14 coupled to one or more networks 28.” (Ruths et al., paragraph 51) This is not analogous to the requirements of Claim 19, because the “collaboration manager” or Claims 18 and 19 is based on the collaboration space of Claim 1, which, as discussed above, presents a context based personalized view to different team members. (Specification, page 4, lines 7-11; Claim 1, lines 14-16) Thus, Ruths et al. do not anticipate Claim 19 of the claimed invention.

Claim 19 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claims 1 and 18.

Claims 20-22. With regard to Claims 20-22, the Examiner states that “they are substantially similar to claims 15-17 and therefore are rejected for the same reasons.” (Office Action at 7) As a result, the foregoing discussion of Claims 15-17 is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Claims 20-22 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 8.

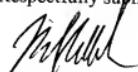
Claim 23. With regard to Claim 23, the Examiner states that “it is substantially similar to claim 14 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons.” (Office Action at 7) As a result, the foregoing discussion of Claim 14 is incorporated by reference as if fully restated herein. Claim 23 should also be allowed as dependent from allowable Claim 8.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 14-23 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed.

Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Applicants' Deposit Account No. 50-0510 (IBM Corporation).

Respectfully submitted,



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